

HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer

OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC

## Health Inspector

FOR

1969

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

LAIDLER, Frederick R. (*Chairman*)

BUGBEE, Noel M.

GEE, Charles E.

GILLER, Roy J.

LEE, George F.

NASH, Cyril G.

RAWLINSON, Mrs. Edythe S.

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## **COUNCIL OFFICES**

TRINITY STREET, HALSTEAD, ESSEX

*Telephone:* Halstead 2503

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## **JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES**

**HALSTEAD URBAN & RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS**

MOUNT HILL, HALSTEAD, ESSEX

*Telephone:* Halstead 2473



*Medical Officer of Health*

DR. JOHN HARKNESS

M.D., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

*Also Medical Officer of Health, Halstead Rural District Council  
and  
Medical Officer, Essex County Council*

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT**

*Public Health Inspector*

**HAROLD NIELD**

F.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., D.R.S.H.

*Incorporated Public Health Engineer*

*Also Public Health Inspector, Halstead Rural District Council*

*Deputy Public Health Inspector* **BRIAN A. J. TURNER**  
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

*District Public Health Inspectors* **BERNARD J. DAVIES**  
D.R.S.H.  
**GEOFFREY CUSDEN**  
M.A.P.H.I.

*Technical Assistant* **DAVID J. LAVER**  
(to 31.3.69)  
**SYDNEY B. SAWARD**  
M.R.I.P.H.H.  
(from 1.4.69)

*Chief Clerk* **BRUCE F. LAWS**  
(to 31.3.69)  
**JOHN W. ACTON**  
(from 9.6.69 to 31.10.69)

*Clerical Assistant* **Mrs. JEAN G. GAYWOOD**

*Clerk Typist* **Miss VALERIE J. TREBLE**  
(to 2.5.69)  
**Mrs. ANN P. WILKS**  
(from 21.7.69)

*Pupil Public Health Inspector* **JOHN R. TANSWELL**  
(to 12.9.69)

*Part-time Rodent Operator* **FRANK ANDREWS**

*Also Part-time Rodent Operator*  
Halstead Rural District Council  
Braintree Urban District Council  
Braintree Rural District Council &  
Witham Urban District Council

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF  
THE HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District for 1969.

## Vital Statistics

The estimated population is 7,050 and there were 106 live births and 1 still birth which gives a birth rate of 15.9 compared with 16.3 for England and Wales. The downward trend nationally which started in 1965 continued.

The death rate of 12.5 per 1,000 of the population compares with 11.9 for England and Wales. The main causes of deaths were ischaemic heart disease, cerebro-vascular disease and malignant neoplasms. During the last 10 years there have been changes in the causes of death. There has been a reduction in deaths from infections, suicide and gas poisoning, but these reductions have been counterbalanced by an increase in other types of poisoning and in deaths from lung cancer. In Halstead there were seven deaths from cancer of the lung. The causal effect of smoking in this disease has been known for some years and it has been calculated that some 80,000 premature deaths probably occur each year in England and Wales which are directly associated with smoking. The advantages to be obtained from the cessation of cigarette smoking are very large and begin soon and yet the public have, to a large extent, ignored the well-publicised warnings.

## Infectious diseases

There were only 6 cases of infectious disease notified during the year. However, in the last weeks of the year there was a large number of cases of influenza. In the past, new variants of the influenza virus have spread quickly around the world. During the winter of 1968-9 it was feared that a new variant would produce a large epidemic in this country. This failed to materialise, but towards the end of 1969 a considerable number of cases occurred in the south-east of the country and rapidly spread. It has not yet been possible to produce a vaccine effective enough for general use. However, a vaccine is available which, if given at the right time, may give some measure of protection to certain susceptible groups.

John Hochman

*Medical Officer of Health*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF  
THE HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the environmental health services provided by your Public Health Inspectors during 1969.

The report as customary, because of the form in which the Ministries insist the reports are written, consists of statistics required by statute with some brief comment, under the subject headings of

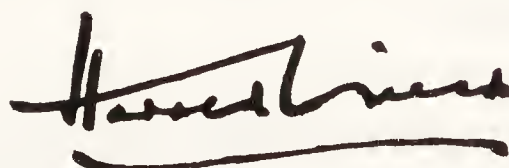
- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Housing       | 5. Working Conditions |
| 2. Food          | 6. Water              |
| 3. Air Pollution | 7. Pests              |
| 4. Waste Matters | 8. Miscellaneous      |

The report is essentially a record of what was done in 1969 by your Public Health Inspectors to maintain and improve environmental health standards. As the current interest in pollution and the environment demonstrates, much work needs to be done. Indeed, to protect environmental health adequately, demands constant and vigorous effort.

The coming into operation in August of the Housing Act 1969 brought into effect a more generous level and scope of assistance for the improvement or conversion of dwellings, and not only increased the amount of improvement grant payable but also introduced a system of Qualification Certification in relation to rented properties whereby in order to change the tenancy from a controlled to a regulated one with rental increase, landlords must obtain Qualification Certificates from the Council certifying that the houses comply with prescribed standards.

The lengthy period of time during the year when Chief Clerk, Clerk Typist and Pupil Public Health Inspector assistance was lacking, and also when there was lengthy absence on account of illness of two Public Health Inspectors, seriously affected the work of the department.

This report, once again provides me with the pleasurable opportunity of recording my thanks to the staff for their willing, loyal and efficient assistance, and to my colleagues in other departments for their courteous and helpful co-operation throughout the year.



*Health Inspector*



# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) .. .. .	1,232
Population (Registrar General's estimate) .. .. .	7,050
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1969) according to the Rate Books .. .. .	2,887
Rateable Value .. .. .	£263,775
Sum represented by a penny rate .. .. .	£1,027

## Live Births:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	102	50	52
Illegitimate .. .. .	4	3	1
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population .. .. .			15.0
Birth rate (corrected by comparability factor of 1.06) .. .. .			15.9
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) .. .. .			16.3

## Still Births:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	1	0	1
Illegitimate .. .. .	0	0	0
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. .			9.0
Total births (live and still) .. .. .			107

## Infant and Maternal Mortality:

Deaths of infants under 1 year .. .. .	3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births .. .. .	28
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births .. .. .	29
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births .. .. .	—
Neo-natal mortality rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births .. .. .	28
Early neo-natal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 live births .. .. .	28
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and first week) per 1,000 live and still births .. .. .	37
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births .. .. .	4
Maternal deaths (including abortion) .. .. .	0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births .. .. .	—

## Deaths:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Deaths .. .. .	102	51	51
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population .. .. .			14.5
Death rate (corrected by comparability factor of 0.86) .. .. .			12.5
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) .. .. .			11.9

# DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1969

Disease	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (respiratory) .. .. .	0	0
Tuberculosis (other) .. .. .	0	0
Syphilitic disease .. .. .	0	0
Diphtheria .. .. .	0	0
Whooping cough .. .. .	0	0
Meningococcal infections .. .. .	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis .. .. .	0	0
Measles .. .. .	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases .. .. .	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	2	0
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .. .. .	7	0
Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .	0	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	0	2
Other malignant neoplasms, etc. .. .. .	4	0
Benign and unspecified neoplasms .. .. .	0	1
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	1	0
Diabetes .. .. .	0	0
Anaemias .. .. .	1	0
Mental disorders .. .. .	0	1
Other diseases of the nervous system .. .. .	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	0	0
Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	0	0
Hypertensive disease .. .. .	0	1
Ischaemic heart disease .. .. .	8	9
Other heart disease .. .. .	1	6
Cerebrovascular disease .. .. .	11	15
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	2	4
Influenza .. .. .	0	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	4	2
Bronchitis and emphysema .. .. .	1	0
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	1	0
Peptic ulcer .. .. .	1	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia .. .. .	1	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	0	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	0	0
Other diseases of digestive system .. .. .	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	0	0
Other diseases, genito-urinary system .. .. .	1	0
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system .. .. .	1	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	0	0
Other causes of perinatal mortality .. .. .	0	2
Congenital malformation .. .. .	0	0
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions .. .. .	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	0	0
All other accidents .. .. .	3	1
Suicide .. .. .	0	0
Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	0	0
All other external causes .. .. .	0	1
Totals ..	51	51

# PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Total Cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria .. .. .	0	0	0
Dysentery .. .. .	0	0	0
Enteric Fever .. .. .	0	0	0
Erysipelas .. .. .	0	0	0
Food Poisoning .. .. .	0	0	0
Infectious Hepatitis .. .. .	0	0	0
Measles .. .. .	4	0	0
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	0	0	0
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis .. .. .	0	0	0
Paralytic Poliomyelitis .. .. .	0	0	0
Pneumonia .. .. .	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	1	0	0
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) .. .. .	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary) .. .. .	1	1	0
Whooping Cough .. .. .	0	0	0
Totals ..	6	1	0

## TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases notified: 1

Transfer from other Districts: 0

Deaths from Tuberculosis: 0



# 1. HOUSING

Housing in its many aspects had priority in the work of your Public Health Inspectors. The encouragement of improved housing standards through financial grants and loans, the prevention of deterioration in the condition of older houses through routine inspection and enforcement action concerning disrepair, and the reconstruction or demolition of condemned houses through slum clearance proposals, all helped in making a major contribution to the maintenance and improvement of the District's social as well as environmental health conditions. One remembers, however, that an immense amount of time and effort has been expended on this work since the days of "homes fit for heroes" campaign after the First World War, when politicians have got the votes but most of the heroes not the homes. There have been innumerable proposals and promises regarding solving the housing problem, and so much still remains to be done.

Public Health Inspectors' housing duties present many problems, and they often must bear the odium for actions which they are carrying out on instructions from central government. No problem causes more heartache and gives a worse public image than slum clearance.

## (a) Housing Inspections

(1)	Inspections regarding disrepair and sanitary defects	.. ..	214
(2)	Houses fully surveyed and recorded	.. ..	29
(3)	Inspections regarding reconditioning	.. ..	32
(4)	Inspections regarding overcrowding	.. ..	0
(5)	Inspections regarding Certificates of Disrepair/Qualification Certificates	.. ..	0
(6)	Inspections of moveable dwellings	.. ..	0
(7)	Miscellaneous housing inspections	.. ..	144
(8)	Investigations of applications for Council house tenancies	..	0

## (b) Housing Notices

(1)	Informal Notices served regarding disrepair and defects	.. ..	50
(2)	Statutory Notices served under Housing Act regarding disrepair and defects	.. ..	0
(3)	Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act regarding disrepair and defects	.. ..	0

## (c) Unfit Houses

(1)	Houses officially reported Unfit to Council under Housing Act	..	16
(2)	(a) Undertakings accepted (i) to make fit for human habitation..	..	1
	(ii) not to use for human habitation..	..	0
	(b) Undertakings cancelled	.. ..	0
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec. 1969)	.. ..	0
	(i) to make fit for human habitation..	..	1
	(ii) not to use for human habitation..	..	2
(3)	(a) Closing Orders made	.. ..	1
	(b) Closing Orders determined	.. ..	0
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Closing Orders (Dec. 1969)	.. ..	11
(4)	(a) Demolition Orders made	.. ..	9
	(b) Demolition Orders revoked	.. ..	0
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Demolition Orders (Dec. 1969)	.. ..	30
(5)	(a) Houses made subject to Compulsory Purchase Orders	..	0
	(b) Accumulated total of houses subject to outstanding Compulsory Purchase Orders (Dec. 1969)	.. ..	0

## (d) Slum Clearance Proposals

Details of the Council's ten years' Slum Clearance Proposals are given in the following tables which show:—

- (1) the approved proposals,
- (2) the year-by-year progress made,
- (3) the position at 31st December, 1969.

(1)

Years	Total houses in District Unfit for Human Habitation
1956-65	132
1966-75	103
	(Including 58 remaining from 1956-65 proposals)

(2)

Year	Houses Reported Unfit	Undertakings Accepted	Closing Orders Made	Demolition Orders Made	Houses Made Subject to Clearance Orders	Houses Made Subject to Compulsory Purchase Orders	Houses Made Fit	Houses Demolished
1956	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
1957	36	13	16	10	0	0	0	3
1958	4	2	0	1	0	0	1	11
1959	23	0	0	4	18	0	6	16
1960	46	0	5	2	0	0	2	7
1961	22	0	2	16	0	0	1	16
1962	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	7
1963	5	0	4	5	0	24	0	4
1964	2	0	1	9	0	0	0	15
1965	7	0	0	0	0	8	2	9
1966	8	0	1	9	0	0	0	22
1967	6	0	0	7	0	0	0	7
1968	8	0	1	11	0	0	2	19
1969	16	1	1	9	0	0	0	7
Totals	195	17	33	84	18	32	14	143

(3)

Unfit Houses Reported to Council and made subject to							Unfit Houses awaiting Report to Council
Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Clearance Orders	Compulsory Purchase Orders	Action Pending		
					Deferred by Council	Other	
3	11	30	0	0	0	1	18
2	5	18	0	0	Total Houses Occupied 25		

The securing of early re-housing of families living in unfit dwellings, and the reconditioning or demolition of these houses, is a problem which should be overcome with the very minimum further delay.

(e) **Housing Improvements**

(1)	Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by Public Health Inspectors.. .. .	19
(2)	Houses fully reconditioned to the "Twelve Points Standard" ..	6
(3)	Houses repaired following Statutory Housing Act Notices .. ..	0
(4)	Houses repaired following Statutory Public Health Act Notices ..	0
(5)	Houses reconditioned following Statutory Housing Act Orders ..	0
(6)	Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Housing Act .. .. .	0
(7)	Houses in Clearance Areas demolished .. .. .	0

(f) **Housing Improvement Grants**

(1)	Applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants .. ..	5
(2)	Discretionary Improvement Grants approved.. .. .	5
(3)	Schemes completed .. .. .	4

Details regarding Discretionary Improvement Grants are given in the following table:—

Year	Applications			Completions	
	Received	Approved	Grant Approved	No.	Grant Paid
1949 to 1954	0	0	—	0	—
1955	14	7	£1,231 12 10	6	£1,036 12 4
1956	0	0	—	1	£195 0 6
1957	0	0	—	0	—
1958	0	0	—	0	—
1959	5	5	£689 0 0	2	£240 0 0
1960	9	9	£1,649 0 0	5	£759 0 0
1961	4	4	£832 0 0	6	£1,171 0 0
1962	3	3	£620 0 0	4	£649 0 0
1963	4	4	£852 0 0	5	£1,072 0 0
1964	2	2	£360 0 0	1	£175 0 0
1965	4	4	£825 0 0	2	£403 0 0
1966	1	1	£214 0 0	5	£1,039 0 0
1967	2	2	£346 0 0	0	—
1968	6	6	£1,024 0 0	5	£841 0 0
1969	5	5	£2,043 0 0	4	£776 0 0
Totals	59	52	£10,785 12 10	46	£8,356 12 10

(4)	Applications for Standard Improvement Grants .. .. .	7
(5)	Standard Improvement Grants approved .. .. .	7
(6)	Schemes completed .. .. .	4

Details regarding Standard Improvement Grants are given in the following tables:—



Year	Applications			No.	Completions			
	Received	Approved	Maximum Grant Approved		Amount of Standard Grant			
					Maximum Approved	Actual Paid		
1959	5	5	£570	0	—	—		
1960	11	11	£1,370	9	£1,050	£693	16	6
1961	10	10	£1,065	15	£1,765	£1,254	1	3
1962	10	10	£1,520	4	£610	£478	3	5
1963	6	6	£910	5	£675	£604	16	7
1964	8	8	£1,190	6	£880	£698	9	2
1965	12	12	£1,660	6	£910	£727	13	4
1966	7	7	£980	11	£1,560	£1,350	6	3
1967	9	9	£1,155	10	£1,230	£1,164	7	11
1968	12	12	£1,742	8	£1,160	£1,103	7	11
1969	7	7	£1,115	4	£540	£490	2	2
Totals	97	97	£13,277	78	£10,380	£8,565	4	6

(7) Houses subject to Grants were occupied as follows:—

Year	Discretionary Improvement Grants			Standard Improvement Grants		
	Owner	Tenant	Total	Owner	Tenant	Total
1949 to						
1954	0	0	0			
1955	3	4	7			
1956	0	0	0			
1957	0	0	0			
1958	0	0	0			
1959	3	2	5	4	1	5
1960	1	8	9	9	2	11
1961	4	0	4	9	1	10
1962	2	1	3	8	2	10
1963	1	3	4	4	2	6
1964	1	1	2	7	1	8
1965	0	4	4	6	6	12
1966	0	1	1	4	3	7
1967	0	2	2	4	5	9
1968	1	5	6	7	5	12
1969	1	4	5	7	0	7
Totals	17	35	52	69	28	97

(8) Loans made by Council for Repairing or Improving Houses .. 0

(g) Rent Act

(1)	Applications for Certificates of Disrepair/Qualification Certificates..	0
(2)	Decisions to issue Certificates .. .. .	0
(3)	Undertakings given by Landlords .. .. .	0
(4)	Certificates of Disrepair/Qualification Certificates issued .. .. .	0
(5)	Applications for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair/Qualification Certificates .. .. .	0
(6)	Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair/Qualification Certificates .. .. .	0
(7)	Certificates of Disrepair/Qualification Certificates cancelled .. .. .	0

#### (h) Housing Overcrowding

(1)	Overcrowded houses existing December, 1968	..	..	..	0
(2)	Overcrowded houses found during 1969	..	..	..	0
(3)	Overcrowded houses relieved during 1969	..	..	..	0
(4)	Overcrowded houses existing December, 1969	..	..	..	0

#### (i) Caravan Sites

There were two caravan site licences in force in the District.

#### (j) Miscellaneous

During the year 66 houses were built by private enterprise, 18 houses and 2 flats were built by the Council. No existing Council houses were improved to present day standards of amenity by the provision of bathrooms, hot water supplies, etc.

No houses were sold by the Council to tenants.

Houses owned by the Council at the end of the year were:— (from information supplied by the Council's Housing Officer)

Pre-war.	Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	342
Post-war.	Houses and Bungalows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	464
	Flats and Flatlets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	246
	(1 block of 24, 1 block of 22, 2 blocks of 16, 1 block of 14, 5 blocks of 12, 7 blocks of 8, 6 blocks of 6, 1 block of 2)								

There were no registered Common Lodging Houses nor unsatisfactory Houses in Multiple Occupation in the District.

## 2. FOOD

Food supplies control and food hygiene work generally formed an appreciable proportion of your Public Health Inspectors' duties. It is stressed that the number of food complaints shown in the report does not reflect the true extent of the problems involved. The co-operation of the public in bringing unsatisfactory circumstances to the notice of your Public Health Inspectors is most important, and reticence in making official complaints continues to hinder progress in this matter. Unfortunately, most housewives in particular seem concerned only with the price of food and not the hygienic conditions under which it is sold.

Some proprietors of food preparation premises, shops, restaurants, etc., did not seem to realise that the existence of unhygienic conditions is an offence against the Food Hygiene Regulations and renders them liable to prosecution without warning. They were apt to consider that all they required to do is remedy unsatisfactory conditions found during routine inspection by Public Health Inspectors.

### (a) Food, Food Hygiene and Food Premises Inspections

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by Public Health Inspectors of the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:—

Type of Food Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections	Having wash hand basin with hot and cold water (Reg. 16)	Having sink with hot and cold water (Reg. 19)	Required to have sink with hot and cold water (Reg. 19)
Bakehouses .. .. .	2	2	1	2	2
Bread and Confectioners .. ..	3	4	3	3	3
Bread Distribution Depots .. ..	0	0	0	0	0
Dairies and Milk Distributors ..	4	0	4	4	4
Egg Packing and Liquid Egg Preparation Premises .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Shops and Fish Fryers .. ..	4	21	4	4	4
Game Dealers' Premises (Licensed)	1	1	1	1	1
General Provisions Shops .. ..	20	55	14	10	20
Greengrocers .. .. .	3	6	2	3	3
Ice Cream Premises (Registered) ..	26	2	7	0	0
Meat Products Premises (Registered)	3	3	3	3	3
Meat Shops .. .. .	5	25	5	5	5
Poultry Processing Premises .. ..	0	0	0	0	0
Public Houses and Inns .. ..	20	40	7	20	20
Restaurants and Cafes .. ..	4	3	2	4	4
School Kitchens .. .. .	5	8	4	5	5
Slaughterhouses .. .. .	1	154	1	1	1
Social Clubs .. .. .	3	9	3	3	3
Street Vendors .. .. .	—	52	—	—	—
Sweet Confectioners .. .. .	6	6	3	4	5
Works Canteens .. .. .	2	5	2	2	2
Miscellaneous .. .. .	4	13	2	2	4
Totals ..	116	409	68	76	89



Food premises fully surveyed	..	..	..	..	6
Food poisoning investigations	..	..	..	..	0
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	31
Food premises improved	..	..	..	..	20
Food vehicles improved	..	..	..	..	1

No Clean Food Guilds were inaugurated or existed during the year.

Food traders were co-operative in securing the hygienic handling and storage of food, but improvement in these matters is very dependent upon public opinion.

#### (b) Food Premises Improvements

Type of Food Premises	Structural Works	Decorations and Cleaning	Lighting and Ventilation	Cold Water Supply	Hot Water Supply	Washing Facilities		Food Storage Facilities	Refuse Storage Facilities	Drainage	Sanitary Accommodation	Name and Address Displayed	Wash Hand Notices Displayed	Totals
						Wash-hand Basins	Sinks							
General Provision Shops .. ..	2	4	4	2	2	0	2	2	3	0	0	0	2	23
Greengrocers .. ..	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Meat Shops .. ..	2	2	0	3	3	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	15
Public Houses and Inns .. ..	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	7
Social Clubs .. ..	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Food Vehicles .. ..	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	7
Works Canteens .. ..	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Totals .. ..	7	9	4	9	10	1	8	6	4	0	2	1	2	63

#### (c) Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

One slaughterhouse was licensed by the Council and used by a local butcher during the year. Slaughtering was carried out on three days per week. This regular slaughtering of animals at fixed times on fixed days was approved by the Council.

All animals slaughtered in the District were inspected in accordance with statutory requirements for fitness of the meat and offal for human consumption and, if passed, officially stamped before leaving the slaughterhouse.

No specimens were submitted to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for examination.

Charges for meat inspection of 2/6 per bovine animal, 9d. per calf or pig, and 6d. per sheep, lamb or goat remained in force.

Details of meat inspection carried out by Public Health Inspectors at the slaughterhouse are given in the following table:—

	Cattle exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed .. .. .	323	0	2	1,018	498	0
No. Inspected .. .. .	323	0	2	1,018	498	0
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	31	0	0	8	21	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci .. .. .	9.6	0	0	0.78	4.22	0
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	0	0	0	0	3	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0.6	0
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
(a) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Generalised and totally condemned .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0	0

Licensed Slaughtermen: 5

**(d) Poultry Inspection at Poultry Processing Premises**

There were no Poultry Processing premises within the District.

**(e) Milk and Dairies**

The Council remained responsible for the registration of dairies other than dairy farms and of distributors, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the supervision of dairy farms. Dealers' licenses were granted by the Essex County Council as Food and Drugs Authority, and permitted sales outside as well as inside the area of the licensing authority.

Bacteriological milk sampling and also routine sampling for biological examination for tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus was carried out by the Essex County Council. No herds with brucella abortus infection were notified by the County Council. No samples of raw milk were submitted for examination for brucella abortus by your Public Health Inspectors.

Six inspections were made during the year of the four registered dairy premises.

**(f) Liquid Egg Processing Premises**

There were no liquid egg pasteurisation plants in the District, and no samples of liquid egg were submitted for the prescribed test.

**(g) Ice Cream**

There were no premises in the District registered for the manufacture of ice cream, but 26 premises were registered for the sale only of pre-packed ice cream.

Details of samples of ice cream and ice lollies taken for bacteriological examination are given in the following tables:—

Ministry of Health Provisional Grade	No. of Ice Cream Samples	Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Cream Samples
I	8	Excellent	0
II	0	V. Satisfactory	0
III	0	Satisfactory	8
IV	0	Fair	0
		Unsatisfactory	0
Total	8	Total	8

Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Lolly Samples
Excellent	0
V. Satisfactory	0
Satisfactory	1
Fair	0
Unsatisfactory	0
Total	1

**(h) General**

Only two complaints were received during the year regarding unfit food, food handlers' unhygienic practices or uncleanly food premises, as follows:—

Food	Complaint
Bread	Mould
Chicken and Ham Pie	Mould

Detailed investigations were carried out and appropriate informal action taken. Progress, however, is hindered by reticence on the part of the public in making official complaints.

No prosecutions regarding food or food premises were instituted during the year.

The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority were responsible for the taking of samples for chemical analysis of food and drugs, milk, ice cream, etc.



### (i) Unsound Food

It was not necessary to make any seizures of food. Vendors co-operated satisfactorily in reporting suspected food. The following commodities were voluntarily surrendered:—

Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	301 lbs.
Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31 lbs.
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	108 lbs.
Tinned Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16 lbs.
Total ..								<hr/> 456 lbs. <hr/>

This condemned food was stained and disposed of either by burial in deep refuse pits or by sterilisation at licensed Waste Food Boiling Premises.

No special examinations of whole stocks or consignments of food were necessary during the year.

## 3. AIR POLLUTION

Air pollution, an environmental condition of major importance, was not a matter subject to local complaint, and pressure of other work did not permit the time and effort warranted to be devoted to this duty.

The Council continued to co-operate in the National Survey of Atmospheric Pollution and daily volumetric measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere were taken and the results forwarded monthly to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

### (a) New Furnace and Chimney Installations

(1)	Notices submitted with plans and specifications of proposals to install furnaces and chimneys to which the Clean Air Act applies..	0
(2)	Approvals granted of such plans and specifications for the purposes of the Clean Air Act .. .. .	0

### (b) Air Pollution Nuisances

(1)	Investigations .. .. .	20
(2)	Confirmed .. .. .	3
(3)	Abated .. .. .	0

## 4. WASTE MATTERS

### (a) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Public Sewerage and Sewage Disposal was part of the duties of your Surveyor. The arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the District were reasonably adequate. The scheme for the extension of the Langley Mill Sewage Disposal Works, required to deal with the increasing sewage flows from the existing steady development and anticipated future growth of the town, was completed and officially opened in July.

A scheme for a new length of surface water sewer from the Kings Road/Parsonage Street corner to the level crossing continued to await commencement of work at the end of the year.

No inspections were made by your Public Health Inspectors of public sewers following complaints.

**(b) Drainage**

1.	Drainage investigations and advisory visits	..	..	..	..	11
2.	Drainage inspections	..	..	..	..	5
3.	Inspections of ditches, water courses, etc.	..	..	..	..	0
4.	Drainage tests	..	..	..	..	1
5.	Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	1
6.	Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	0

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors five drains were cleansed.

**(c) Sanitary Fittings and Conveniences**

There is a need in the town for improvement of the existing public conveniences, and also for the provision of additional ones.

**(d) Refuse Storage and Disposal**

Public cleansing was part of the duties of your Surveyor. The Council possessed one refuse collecting vehicle which removed house refuse at weekly intervals. Refuse was disposed of on a refuse dump at Sible Hedingham in the Halstead Rural District.

Eighteen inspections of the refuse dump and 4 inspections regarding refuse accumulations and storage were made. One informal notice was served regarding refuse accumulation.

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors 5 refuse accumulations were removed and 9 dustbins were provided.

## 5. WORKING CONDITIONS

The control of the health and welfare aspects of working conditions by Public Health Inspectors under the provisions of Factories Acts, Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, etc., has continued to receive increasing attention in recent years, and the following statistical details show some continued improvement.

### (a) Factories

#### (1) Inspections and Notices

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. ..	18	2	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	48	4	0	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	0	0	0	0
Totals .. ..	66	6	0	0

#### (2) Defects Found and Remedied

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. ..	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. ..	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. ..	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) .. ..					
(a) Insufficient ..	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes .. ..	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .. ..	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ..	0	0	0	0	0



(3) **Outworkers**

Nature of Outwork	Section 133			Section 134			
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
Wearing apparel —Making, etc.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

(b) **Offices, Shops and Railway Premises**

During the year 9 new premises were registered, and all received a general inspection. Five informal notices were served in respect of contraventions found and 11 informal notices were complied with.

No accidents were reported, and no applications were received for exemption from the provisions relating to room space for employees, temperature, sanitary conveniences and running water supply to washing facilities.

The following tables give details of:—

- (1) Premises registered and inspections.
- (2) Contraventions.
- (3) Improvements following informal action by Public Health Inspectors.

TABLE 1 PREMISES REGISTERED AND INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Premises registered during year	Registered premises at end of year	Registered premises general inspection	Total visits of all kinds	Persons Employed			
					Male		Female	
					Under 18 yrs.	Over 18 yrs.	Under 18 yrs.	Over 18 yrs.
Offices .. ..	2	27	4	38	2	65	10	101
Retail Shops .. ..	5	66	15	134	5	78	14	143
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ..	2	6	2	5	0	23	0	1
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens .. ..	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	8
Fuel Storage Depots .. ..	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	0
Totals ..	9	103	21	180	7	171	24	253

TABLE 2 CONTRAVENTIONS

Premises	Information	Cleanliness and Decorations	Overcrowding	Temperature	Ventilation	Lighting	Sanitary Conveniences	Washing Facilities	Drinking Water	Clothing	Sitting Facilities	Eating Facilities	Floors and Stairs	Dangerous Machinery	Young Persons	Supervision	Health and Safety	Noise	Heavy Work	First Aid	Miscellaneous	Totals
Offices .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Retail Shops .. .. .	2	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	10
Warehouses and Wholesale Shops .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Catering Establishments .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fuel Storage Depots .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals .. .. .	2	0	0	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	12

TABLE 3 IMPROVEMENTS

Offices	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Retail Shops	5	3	0	3	10	3	6	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	40	
Warehouses and Wholesale Shops	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Catering Establishments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Fuel Storage Depots	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	6	4	0	4	11	3	7	3	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	46	



(c) Miscellaneous

Premises	No. in District	Inspections
Places of Entertainment .. .. .	18	12
Schools .. .. .	7	8

Certificates of Exemption granted (shops) .. .. .	0
Certificates of Exemption (shops) in operation .. .. .	0

## 6. WATER

The water supply of the area was generally satisfactory both in respect of quality and quantity. Water from the Council's Undertaking was chlorinated but not treated by softening and had no plumbo-solvent action. As a routine procedure samples were submitted for bacteriological laboratory examination and included some of raw water direct from the borewell.

The Council's District Water Undertaking was transferred to the Colchester and District Water Board on the 1st April, under the Colchester and District Water Board Order 1969.

The water consumption in the District for the Colchester and District Water Board public piped mains supply was estimated to be 42·8 gallons per head per day by their Chief Engineer.

During the year the following work was carried out by Public Health Inspectors:—

(a) Inspections regarding water supplies .. .. .	13
(b) Statutory Notices served re water supplies .. .. .	0
(c) Informal Notices served re water supplies .. .. .	0
(d) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. Details of these are given in the following table .. .. .	14

Source	No. of Samples	Wholesome	Below Standard
Public Water Mains .. .. .	14	14	0
Private Water Mains .. .. .	0	0	0
Public Wells, etc. .. .. .	0	0	0
Private Wells, etc. .. .. .	0	0	0
Totals .. .. .	14	14	0

(e) Samples of water examined for Chlorine content only: 10

A typical Chemical Analysis of the Public Mains Water Supply is given in the following table:—

Examination For	Parts per million	Examination For	Parts per million
Turbidity .. .. .	Less than 3	Hardness: Carbonate (Temporary)	265
Colour .. .. .	3	Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	30
Odour .. .. .	Nil	Nitrate Nitrogen ..	0.1
pH .. .. .	7.5		Less than 0.01
Free Carbon Dioxide ..	18	Nitrite Nitrogen ..	0.04
Electric Conductivity ..	710	Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	0.01
Dissolved Solids Dried at 180°C. .. .. .	480	Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	0.10
Chlorine present as Chloride .. .. .	77	Oxygen Absorbed.. ..	Varies
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate .. .. .	265	Residual Chlorine ..	0-0.22
Hardness: Total .. ..	290	Metals: Iron .. .. .	0.36
		Zinc .. .. .	Absent
		Copper, Lead, .. ..	Absent
		Manganese, etc. .. ..	0.8
		Fluoride .. .. .	

### Public Swimming Baths

The Council's public swimming baths were again used during May to October, each week from Thursday to Tuesday, being emptied Tuesday evenings and filled Wednesdays with water from the Council's Undertaking. Hand chlorination was carried out and the use of an algacide was continued with success, to secure improved clarity and purification, and to facilitate cleansing. As a routine procedure samples of the baths water during use were examined for estimation of residual chlorine content, and submitted for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination.

During the open season 29 visits were made. Twenty-five samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and found to be suitable for bathing purposes with the exception of 1 sample taken in April and 2 samples taken in May. Three samples taken in May, July and August respectively failed to attain a high bacteriological standard.

Twenty-five samples were also taken for chemical analysis and 6 samples taken during the season failed to attain a high standard of clarity due partly to iron content, though turbidity was not excessive.

## 7. PESTS

Pest control, a routine environmental health duty which may easily be overlooked, has been given more prominence nationally recently, and the very wide variety of pests which it is necessary for your Public Health Inspectors to identify, advise upon regarding disinfestation measures, and supply appropriate rodenticides, pesticides and insecticides, etc., are detailed.

### (a) Insect Pests

The District continued to be comparatively free from insect pest infestation. No premises were found with bed bug infestation. Twenty-seven inspections were made by Public Health Inspectors regarding insect pests, and 18 premises were disinfested. Supplies of pesticides, insecticides, etc., were also issued free to private householders. Pests dealt with included cockroaches, flies, ants, fleas, mosquitoes, wasps, beetles, mites, spider mites, silver fish, etc. No major insect pest infestation occurred at the Council's refuse dump, but it was treated with insecticide as a routine measure.

### (b) Rodent Control

The Council operated a rat and mouse disinfestation service for occupiers of business premises on a basis of repayment of the cost of time, transport and materials, and for occupiers of domestic premises a free service at the discretion of the Public Health Inspector. Poison bait was also issued free to private householders.

There was no unduly high incidence of rat and mouse infestations in the District. The Council's public sewers, sewage disposal works, refuse dump, etc., were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food requirements.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by Public Health Inspectors and part-time Rodent Operator during the year were:—

No.	Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in District ..	3,531	10
2a.	Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification .. .. .	42	0
2b.	Number infested by (i) Rats .. .. .	28	0
	(ii) Mice .. .. .	14	0
3a.	Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification .. .. .	777	3
3b.	Number infested by (i) Rats .. .. .	0	0
	(ii) Mice .. .. .	0	0
Sewers			
4.	No sewers were found to be infested by rats during the year.		

The Council's rodent control service treated 37 infestations, 24 rats and 13 mice at non-agricultural premises, and 2 rat infestations at Council premises, sewerage works, refuse dumps, etc.

No informal notices were served in respect of rat infestations. One non-agricultural premise was rat disinfested by private persons or contractors following informal action by Public Health Inspectors.

No "Block Control" schemes were carried out.

There was no evidence of Warfarin-resistant rats in the District during the year.



(c) **Miscellaneous Pests**

Advice was given in response to enquiries regarding infestations of bats, squirrels, pigeons, etc.

## **8. MISCELLANEOUS**

The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by Public Health Inspectors during the year:—

<b>(a) Noise Nuisances</b>								
(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
<b>(b) Effluvia Nuisances</b>								
(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
<b>(c) Keeping of Animals and Poultry Nuisances</b>								
(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
<b>(d) Notifiable Diseases</b>								
(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Premises Disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
<b>(e) Animal Boarding Establishments</b>								
(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
<b>(f) Pet Shops</b>								
(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
<b>(g) Rag Flock Stores</b>								
(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
<b>(h) Waste Food Boiling Premises</b>								
(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
<b>(i) Local Land Charges</b>								
Reports to Clerk of Council on public health aspects of Official Searches in the Local Land Charges Register								230
<b>(j) Plans</b>								
Planning and Building Regulation plans examined regarding public health matters								2

It is emphasised how important it is that plans should be examined by Public Health Inspectors to avoid works being carried out in accordance with Planning Permissions and Building Regulation Approvals which contravene statutory requirements administered through Public Health Inspectors, especially at food premises, houses, places of employment, shops, factories, etc. Prior consultation with Public Health Inspectors is also particularly important especially when Planning Permissions are sought for such projects as “factory farming” and industrial processes producing noxious fumes, waste products or excessive noise.

(k) **Special Reports**

One special report was submitted to the Council by the Public Health Inspector during the year on “Substandard Houses—Site Redevelopment”.

(l) **Training of Public Health Workers**

Several students (Public Health workers, Teachers, etc.) were conducted on inspection visits of places of public health interest throughout the District.



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